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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor David DIDUCH et al. **Examiner:** G. DAWSON
Serial No.: 10/084,283 **Confirmation No.** 7097
Filed: February 26, 2002 **Group Art Unit:** 3731
Title: Superelastic Suture Passing Devices and Methods

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Applicant wishes to make of record in the above-identified application the document or documents on the attached Form PTO-1449. A copy of each reference is enclosed herewith.

The undersigned believes that this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application. Accordingly, Applicant does not believe that a fee is due for filing this paper. However, should a first action on the merits have been issued on the same day or before this Information Disclosure Statement is filed, please accept this Information Disclosure Statement under Rule 97(c) and charge the requisite Rule 17(p) fee to our Deposit Account No. 50-2882, under Order No. DID-101 and proceed to consider this Information Disclosure Statement.

It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that each reference be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

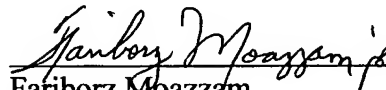
This submission does not represent that any referenced document is material or constitutes "prior art." If it should be determined that one or more of the referenced documents constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicant reserves the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of the reference or references.

Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over any referenced document, should it be applied against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID DIDUCH ET AL.

Date: 30 November 2004


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